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Fashion for
Earth lovers

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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



A brand new day

In the past year, the Earth has experienced bloodshed, drought, earthquakes, tsunamis and a volcanic eruption.

Closer to home, poor air quality, worsening traffic, housing prices and food safety remain serious issues without clear solutions.

Whether or not 2012 ends in a doomsday scenario, the year is here, and each new day offers a chance to turn pain into joy.

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A livable 'world city'

Local government strives to better the capital

By Huang Daohen

The first month of 2012 is drawing to a close with no notable disturbances.

That may mean that doomsday enthusiasts will have to find a new date to latch onto come December 21.

Modern life already has enough challenges without imaginative images of global storms: roads are becoming more congested, food is becoming dangerous and air is becoming edible.

How to survive in a big city like Beijing is a much more immediate problem.

The capital's government is not entirely without a plan.

Mayor Guo Jinlong said he wants the city to become a "World City" by 2050. Though the term still has a hazy political definition, it represents the new direction of Beijing's development.

The municipal government wants the city to become a World City by 2050. CFP Photo



Seeking clean air and blue skies

As with every winter in recent memory, thick smog has once again come to envelope the capital.

But Guo is confident there will be more blue skies and cleaner air this year.

The capital's leaders decided last month to expand their efforts to monitor air quality and reduce pollutants, Guo said at the city's annual meeting on January 12.

This year, the Beijing municipal government will allocate 2.1 billion yuan to tackle air pollution and other projects related to environmental protection, energy conservation and emissions reduction, Guo said.

"The government will try with renewed determination, effective measurements and higher standards to solve the air pollution problem," he said.

As one of its first moves to solve the problem, the environmental protection bureau began releasing measurements of air quality up to 2.5 micrometers, the PM2.5 standard, earlier this month.

In 2010, Beijing's average annual PM2.5 density was 70 to 80 micrograms a cubic meter – more than double the limit recommended by the World Health Organization.

The PM2.5 density in Shanghai, by contrast, was 44 to 53.

The municipal government said it will improve air quality by slashing auto-

mobile pollution and reducing industrial emissions.

Tian Min, a city planning expert at Beijing Normal University, applauded the government's efforts to fight air pollution.

Tian said it would greatly help to set up more monitoring sites to map out the exact air quality in the city.

"There are about 5 million vehicles in the city. Incomplete combustion of fuel has led to a tremendous increase in the density of PM2.5 that causes severe air pollution," he said.

Public transport to ease traffic

Cities are built for people, not cars.

Nevertheless, the wealth of China's middle class is helping to turn Beijing into a giant parking lot.

The Beijing government said it will continue its car registration policy that limits the issuance of new license plates. It will also speed up construction of subway lines and regional branch road networks.

Guo said Beijing will open another four subway lines and construct 45 kilometers of branch roads to form regional road networks that will ensure smooth traffic flow this year.

Three of the city's new subway lines opened late last December, extending the cap-

"The government will try with renewed determination, effective measurements and higher standards to solve the air pollution problem."

ital's total subway length to 372 kilometers.

Guo said the government will also work to develop the bicycle rental industry. It expects to support 500 new rental booths around the city that would make 20,000 bikes available for rent.

The government is also constructing new bicycle lanes in downtown areas.

Tian said a lack of bike lanes is why many people refuse to bike. "Currently, bikes and cars are using the same lanes. It frightens many cyclists and is dangerous," he said.

According to the government's work report, by 2015, the public bicycle system would offer 50,000 bikes at 1,000 booths along subway lines and in key areas around town.

But Tian said that doesn't go far enough. "The government should have more concrete measures to ensure effective operation of the public bicycle system."

Housing prices tumble

The capital's housing prices fell for the first time

last October, a sign that the government's efforts to cool the surging property market are working.

The good news for those without a home is that the city will continue to restrict property purchases and build new subsidized housing this year.

Many in the public called on the government to lift a ban on purchases of second homes by Beijing residents who lack official housing registry in the city.

The city started to limit home purchases last February, together with boosting lending rates. Those who have not paid social security or income taxes for five straight years are prohibited from buying a home in Beijing.

"In 2010, the number of housing units sold dropped 14 percent, and nearly 90 percent were sold to first-time homeowners," Guo said.

About 70,000 subsidized housing units will be completed this year while another 160,000 will enter construction. Half will be used for public rental.

Many experts predict the city's housing prices will continue falling in 2012 and are anticipating a crash.

But Zhao Xiao, local economics professor, said China is unlikely to be the next Dubai.

"Though it's impossible to

foresee when housing prices will bottom out, it's unreasonable to expect real-estate bubble to burst," Zhao said.

A sharp slump in housing prices won't be permitted because housing prices are a cornerstone of social stability, Zhao said.

There is still strong demand for new units due to the country's large population, he said.

Reining in the cost of living

A report by the consulting firm Mercer in 2011 found Beijing has a higher cost of living than New York City.

The comparison said foreign goods in Beijing generally costs more. A pair of Levi's jeans cost 699 to 899 yuan in Beijing, while the same pair only costs a New Yorker around 256 to 576 yuan.

Other luxury goods were found to be horrendously overpriced.

But does life in Beijing really cost so much?

Professor Zhao said such comparisons are meaningless, even misleading, without context.

"Because China and the US have different economic structures and taxation systems, surely there will be different labor costs and income levels," Zhao said.

The consumer price index (CPI) tells a more accurate story. Recent statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics said that CPI in December retreated to 4.1 percent, a 15-month low.

By Zhang Dongya

Modern travel has lost any hint of relaxation. Most travelers act as their own porters, lugging huge bags and fancy cameras as they chase planes. Their schedules are artificially tightened to suit a travel agency's shopping plans, and rest days call on one to rise even earlier than during the work week.

The reward? Photos to post on your microblog.

Make 2012 a year to dump the heavy bags and take a minimalist approach to travel. Most cities have more to see and experience than your travel agent would have you believe. These tips can help you strike out on your own and see it all during your next vacation.



Dump your heavy bags for a more enjoyable journey. Photo by Wei Yao

Tips for traveling light

Avoid tour packages

Although travel agencies can offer a good price and hassle-free arrangements, it's better to do it yourself if you want to enjoy a freewheeling trip.

Sharon Wu, a human resources manager, is an "impulsive" traveler who prefers her trips be as loosely planned as possible. She tends to pounce on each trip idea as it enters her head.

In April, when the willow trees were turning green and the peach trees were blossoming, she went to Hangzhou to take in the sights around West Lake. She planned to visit West Lake on her second morning there, but a late night at the bar turned that morning stroll into an afternoon jaunt.

"It's relaxing to be able to walk at your own pace. There are some scenic spots in West Lake that are on the agencies' schedules, but better enjoyed on your own," she said.

Wu had nothing good to say about tour packages. Although she had only joined one group tour, she said she would never do it again.

"The tours are organized, but inflexible. For some interesting places, they only give you 30 to 60 minutes. I was irritated about how they rushed me out when I wanted to stay, yet in other places we would have to sit around waiting for other members of the group," she said.

Shopping time is the most criticized element of any package tour. If you don't

enjoy shopping, it's best to travel alone.

Tips to plan a light trip

1. Choose the destination that appeals to you, regardless of what others say.

2. Have a rough plan for which scenic spots you want to see. Limit yourself to two places per day. Leave yourself lots of free time to get a feel for the place.

Shrink your backpack

Many travelers said that trip enjoyment is proportional to luggage carried. Unless you are planning on a constant use of taxis, you should pack light.

Backpacks are much more convenient than suitcases when going up and down subway steps and hotel staircases.

Ramon Lee, a master of packing, is always seen car-

rying one small backpack: it's the same backpack he uses on every trip.

"I've seen many people traveling with their whole homes crammed into an array of big suitcases. Those have to go through every airport and subway scanner and create huge delays. Don't try to pack for every contingency because most of them won't happen," Lee said.

"Dump your more cumbersome things like umbrellas. People carry umbrellas in case it rains, but usually we change our plans according to the weather. If you absolutely need an umbrella, just buy one at the time you need it," he said.

Ways to pack less

1. Only pack the necessities and don't bring along disposable goods. Leave out most

of your emergency goods and buy them when you actually need them.

2. Don't buy anything that you seldom use and can borrow on the spot. You don't need to buy binoculars if you just want to watch the birds at the seashore.

3. Women can lighten their luggage by leaving all their expensive skin-care products at home.

Save money, save energy

If you have enough time, don't make your trip into a rush.

Taking trains instead of airplanes can save you a lot of money. With long distances where an airplane is necessary, try buying your tickets through a discount website instead of through the airline's website.

You can also lodge in youth hostels, which usually make up for their modest facilities and service by giving you the chance to make new friends. Youth hotels have improved dramatically over the last decade, and many provide separate toilets and other facilities.

A good attitude is vital when traveling light. Accidents happen, and you should see them as special experiences instead of complaints.

Lastly, remember to experience the local scenery and culture with your eyes and heart instead of through your camera's viewfinder. Unless you are taking photographs for a magazine, take a small point-and-shoot camera instead of a big DSLR and your bag of lenses.

Environmentally-friendly ways to see Beijing

1. Walk. If you can reach somewhere on foot within 30 minutes, then you should walk instead of taking the subway or bus. You could waste more than 10 minutes waiting for a bus or pushing past subway crowds.

2. Bicycle. On a clear day, a bicycle is an environmentally-friendly and healthy way to travel. Wear a mask if the smog gets too thick or choose another method of transportation.

3. Use the subway and bus. Online maps can help you plan your subway and bus connections to minimize transfer times.



A group of visitors travels Lhasa on bike.

Photo by Mockingbird

Growing your own vegetables

A woman waters vegetables on her roof.



Renting a farm

Fan Xuefang doesn't go to her local supermarket anymore. But she's not shopping online either.

This year, the 35-year-old housewife who works for a US law firm is getting her vegetables from a suburban farm that she maintains in her spare time.

"I don't trust the vegetables at the markets, and I don't have time to waste in supermarket lines," said Fan, a mother of a 3-year-old daughter. She spent her past weekend harvesting carrots and cabbages on her small "farm," a 10-square-meter slab of land she rents in a suburb.

"This way I know how the vegetables are grown – I can't have that assurance at the market," Fan said. She goes to her farm once or twice a week to pick food and work the land.

This year, Fan was able to harvest quite a few vegetables, including tomatoes, potatoes, beans and carrots.

"I hope my family can eat more healthily by growing food for our own table," Fan said.

Fan started farming in 2010 after seeing an advertisement for Little Donkey Farm. The farm, founded by a Ph.D student at Renmin University of China in 2009, offers local residents a chance to grow their own vegetables.

"I was curious at first and later found it really interesting," said Fan, who rents her small plot for 1,000 yuan per year. She now grows more than 10 vegetables in different seasons.

"I feel excited. Farming gives me family healthy food and some of life's simple pleasures lost amid the city's fancy skyscrapers," she said.

Fan is not alone in her farming adventure.

Recent years have seen a surge in organic farming among ordinary families in the capital, which advocates producing food by using traditional ways that don't involve modern synthetic inputs like pesticides or chemical food additives.

Many office workers who live in downtown Beijing like Fan drive to the suburbs,

By Huang Daohen

Doctors say you are what you eat, but these days it can be difficult to figure out exactly what that is.

Reports of food tampering often hit the news. In search of health, savvy locals are thinking of ways to grow their own organic carrots and cabbages.



Many residents near Nanluogu Xiang grow vegetables on their windowsills.

CFP Photos

spending weekends toiling over the soil.

According to the Little Donkey Farm, the number of people renting plots has risen to 120 from 20 in 2009.

Container farming

Traveling a long distance to the suburbs can be time-consuming, so young people found another way to grow organic food.

Chen Hui, a 29-year-old clerk for a local IT firm, decided to go organic by growing her own fruit and vegetables in her office and apartment in Chaoyang District.

Like millions of young professionals in the capital, Chen, a passionate ecologist and vegetarian, used to spend eight hours a day in a cubicle.

She always wanted to improve her immediate environment. And so it was that several months ago her eyes landed on a 5-liter plastic container – the perfect pot.

"I have been growing vegetables online in virtual farms, so I just thought why not

plant something real on my balcony?" Chen said.

A couple of weeks later, she had several containers with tomato plants.

"It's not only about growing own food for the sake of health, but it's also a chance for some really creative recycling," Chen said. "You can grow plants in virtually anything that holds some soil and has holes in the bottom."

"The only limit is your imagination."

Chen has been using old flowerpots, big cartons, plastic containers and baskets of various sizes. "I almost used a washbasin I found in the trash, but I didn't like the color," she said.

"With those containers, you can grow a surprising amount of vegetables and fruit on your balcony or windowsill," Chen said. "The rewards can be large, even if your 'farm' is small."

Farms on the rooftop

Savvy residents go even beyond their houses. A recent CCTV report said locals in

Shanghai have turned the rooftops of their high-rise buildings into green farms.

In the city's Yangpu District, many of the roofs were used for growing cucumbers, beans, cabbages and tomatoes in the fall, according to the report.

Residents in one building said they enjoyed the burst of color in their 100 meter-square rooftop as well as the supply of safe organic vegetables.

"The benefits are numerous," said one old resident surnamed Wang. "These vegetables are not only a source of organic food, but they also help improve our environment. The rooftop farm keeps the building interior much quieter. It's warmer in winter and cooler in summer."

The Shanghai municipal government said it would encourage more such green areas by 2015. The city has nearly 30 million square meters of unused rooftop space.

Beijing's city planning authorities said they would also start work on a plan to

add 1 million square meters of above-ground greenery within five years.

"Compared with traditional scenic gardens, rooftop gardens cost less to start and operate," said Beijing's Bureau of Landscape and Forestry in a statement on its website. "They require less labor, and water. What's more, the farms offer real returns since the produce can be sold to locals or nearby markets."

Ke Huanzhang, an expert on urban ecological planning at Beijing Municipal Institute of City Planning and Design, said the idea of rooftop farms or gardens is nothing new in the global context.

But Ke said in the big cities like Beijing, rooftop farms are more significant because they can help ease the problem of limited land resources for agriculture and increase food safety.

More importantly, as more migrants and farmers pour into the cities, it will allow farmers to apply their skills at their new homes, Ke said.

Farmer's Market aims to make a difference

By Annie Wei

Food safety concerns have led thousands of urban shoppers to explore Farmer's Market, a volunteer group bringing organic produce to the capital.

Within one year, the group hosted events from once a few months to almost every one or two weeks, with more than 30 farmers and thousands of visitors attending each time.

Too pricey?

Farmer's Market has been operating since 2010. But unlike similar markets

abroad, Beijing's is less like a flea market for fresh produce than a trendy lifestyle destination for well-to-do families.

With 25,000 followers of its Sina Weibo (@farmers-marketbj), the market has made considerable efforts to address misunderstandings about its sales. A minority of shoppers have complained about prices that, in some cases, exceed eight times the going supermarket rate.

But organic produce costs more: especially in China – and especially in a city like Beijing, which is notorious for its poor and polluted soil.

"You cannot expect to pay the same as you would at a supermarket," said Jin Jiashu, 39, a market volunteer who works in the IT industry.

Jin moved from Shenzhen to Beijing in 2008 with the dream of starting a direct organic market in the capital. But he soon found that China's organic farms were scattered all over the country and totally disconnected from an

distributors.

"That was when I ran into Farmer's Market. As I got to know the organizers, I found we were very like-minded," Jin said. He has since shifted his start-up plans to a low-carbon social network called Lohasoo.com.

With much of the design and programming work being handled by other engineers, Jin prefers to donate his time at the market.

A trusting system

But can the vendors be trusted?

"At first, the market was just a few farmers that we trusted. Then it started to explode," said Chang Tianle, a former NGO worker and full-time Farmer's Market volunteer.

One of the most important jobs at the market is to visit each farm and interview its owners before inviting them to sell.

There is currently a very long list of vendors looking to get into the market, but without more volunteers to inspect their farms, Chang said they will have to wait. Chang is considering switching to a system that would assign vendor screening to a third party.

Market organizers use their Sina Weibo account to announce their inspections of each new farm so interested customers can ride along.



The core volunteers of Beijing Farmer's Market

"We hope our customers' experience with organic produce doesn't end at the market. They should learn more about how organic food is actually grown, where it comes from and more about the farmers," Jin said.

Little kitchen

The volunteers' effort has not gone unappreciated. Of the current 30 vendors, almost all attend every Farmer's Market events, Chang said.

Dealing with customers face to face has helped many farmers learn what consumers want. The praise they've received for the quality of their produce has helped bolster their confidence in organic farming, Chang said. It doesn't hurt that the vendors are not charged for their stands.

To raise more money for advertising, market organizers began a second project called "Little Kitchen." The kitchen concept was first proposed by Emi Uemura, a Japanese woman and the

founder of Farmer's Market.

At one market session last January, the venue decided to charge the group 500 yuan. Farmers donated some of their vegetables and volunteers decided to cook and sell food, using that to raise money.

The amount of food they sold could barely meet the demands of shoppers.

"We earned 10,000 yuan through Little Kitchen because the Halloween party brought in 4,000 visitors. We prepared a lot of food," said Yu Lu, the head chef of Little Kitchen.

Yu came to Beijing from Shanghai early last year after marrying a Beijing man. She quickly discovered Farmer's Market, and Chang encouraged her to get involved with the kitchen.

For the Halloween event, Yu and three volunteers began preparing dishes three days in advance. At most market events, Little Kitchen earns between 1,000 and 2,000 yuan. On its worst month, it earned only 80 yuan after deducting the cost of raw materials.

Priority issues

Having found reliable vendors, venues and customers, the market is now looking for full-time employees.

While core volunteers like Jin Jiashu, Yu Lu, Chang Tianle and Qi Yang have worked essentially for free, they hope the next round of people involved in the market will be able to get something back for their contributions, Chang said.

Ma Xiaochao, 25, a Beijinger who recently returned to the capital after working on a farm in Anhui Province, is one such member.

"When I was in school, I was very interested in Chinese agriculture," Ma said.

She previously worked with an NGO providing aid to migrant workers in Shanghai. After that she got involved in organic farming.

While cities such as Chengdu and Guangzhou have a long history of organizing farmer's markets, the groups have done little to help farmers and consumers expand their knowledge of organic agriculture, Chang said. Unpaid volunteers could never devote enough time to the cause.

"Beijing is different," she said, because it became so popular so quickly.

"At first we only planned to host it once every several months as a symbolic gesture of our support for organic food, but the strong response from consumers showed we would be able to make a difference," Chang said.



COUNTRY FAIR
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With increasing affluence, more people are caring about food safety. Farmer's Market offers an organic solution. Photos by Wang Chen

Local man out to change the way we treat trash

By Annie Wei

For a decade, the Beijing Municipal Administration Committee has been trying to pass garbage regulations that would make every resident responsible for reducing and classifying waste, as well as paying for his or her own waste disposal. It also asked companies and individuals to avoid using unrecyclable products.

Waste management has become a tough civil project. According to the committee, Beijing produces 18,000 tons of kitchen waste every day.

The city has 27 garbage disposal factories, and 17 more will be created during the 11th Five-Year Plan. But without responsible civil action, that may not be enough.

Free bins and bags

In 2009, the Beijing government began a garbage classification trial in 600 residential communities.

In the past, residents simply dumped trash into one of two big barrels, labeled "recyclable" and "non-recyclable." The new project improved on the system.

Each family was given two standard bins and garbage bags, and was encouraged to separate kitchen waste from paper, batteries and plastic. The kitchen waste was to be collected in a green garbage bag, where it would be delivered to a nearby plant and converted into organic fertilizer.

Last year, the government planned to distribute free bins and garbage bags in another 1,200 communities.

But despite the government's good intentions, many environmentally concerned residents said the project isn't working.

A resident, Sun Hao, who lives in Xicheng District, said many of her neighbors aren't familiar with the concept of garbage classification. Garbage is garbage: they all go into the same bins.

Lawyer-turned-crusader

Not everyone is standing idly.

Huang Xiaoshan, 49, a well-off former lawyer, is on the front lines of the fight for disposal decorum. Since last February, he's been leading a self-created company that acts as an intermediary between residents and government trash collection agencies.

In a coffee shop in Nüren Jie, Huang looks the part of the environmental activist: slim, tanned, with purple-dyed hair and white-frame glasses, a rosy colored tight T-shirt and tattered jeans. The only accessory that suggests Huang is a man of means – and one with real clout – is his LV belt.

Huang said he got involved in 2009 when he joined protesters to fend off plans to build a landfill in Napa Valley of Xiaotangshan, where he lives. Last year, he joined officials and



Many Chinese cities are being surrounded by garbage dumps.

CFP Photo

experts on a trip to Japan, sponsored by the local government, to learn about garbage disposal. CCTV, Phoenix TV and Beijing Evening News were among the media outlets that identified Huang as a leader in the grassroots garbage disposal campaign.

Impressed by Japan's advanced trash disposal technology and its citizenry's awareness of garbage classification, Huang couldn't help but wonder why garbage classification was so difficult for his neighbors back home.

"Garbage classification is not a technological issue; it's a conceptual one," he said. It's a process that both the government and citizens must take time to learn.

Huang said he travels abroad every year and notices Chinese people act differently when home and abroad. "They don't honk their horns, spit or jaywalk [in foreign places] like they do here," he said.

He concluded that garbage classification first needs to be drafted into law so that people are forced to take responsibility for their actions. Last year he came up with the slogan: "No garbage classification, no disposal."

'Green house'

Huang faces an uphill battle. Relying on volunteers and old hutong residents to spread the word – or pamphlets and slogans – isn't enough.

"Garbage classification is an eclectic system, consisting of classification, collection, transportation and disposal," he said.

Then there's this: the waste from Chinese families is different from that of many other countries. Chinese cooks use lots of fresh vegetables and a variety of oils and ingredients. As a result, 65 percent of household waste is liquid.

"Of the 18,000 tons of household garbage produced every day, 12,000 tons is kitchen waste and 8,000 tons is liquid," Huang said.

Beijing has a limited number of landfills, and the amount of trash that's produced puts a lot of stress on garbage trucks.

In January, Huang proposed a "green house" project to the government, basically suggesting garbage be sorted according to "wet" or "dry."

"My basic idea was that each community build a 10-square-meter house, painted green, where garbage is separated," Huang said.

His proposal is practical on many levels. For example, it would recruit many migrant garbage collectors into the system. A green house would help the economy, too: residents would stand to make 0.18 to 0.20 yuan for selling aluminum cans of soft drinks.

Huang said he and his friends did not think the government would take the proposal seriously, but after Spring Festival, he got a call from Deng Jun, vice director of the solid waste department of Beijing Municipal Administration Committee.

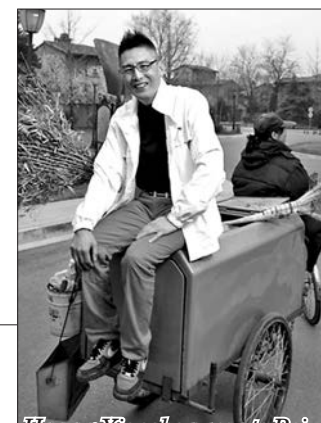
The government was receptive to Huang's idea, Deng said. The green house project was a good supplement for the city to improve garbage classification and reduce waste.

Deng said he hoped that Huang could give more detailed information about the plan and an estimated budget.

Future of collection?

Since February, Huang has been working on his green house project. To register his company – Lüshidan – Huang had to give up his law license.

Huang's first step was to find a machine that could effectively sort wet and dry garbage. His project attracted many companies' interest – "I



Huang Xiaoshan wants Beijingers to clean up their act.

Photo provided by Huang Xiaoshan

have talked with more than 30 environmental companies and visited quite a few," Huang said – but few have impressed him.

"A lot of companies are not doing this out of concern for the environment," Huang said. "They just want to make money. And the technology and machinery they're offering doesn't do the job."

He said he might just design one himself.

Huang was confident that with a team, he can begin installing green houses and sorting. He gets many emails every day from people who are excited about his project and willing to volunteer.

But even if the infrastructure gets put into place, there is still the human problem. The task of convincing people to buy into his work is daunting – it includes distributing brochures, educating people and collecting data about each household's garbage output.

Huang is beginning a long journey, but at least he's willing to wade into the marshes.

After three years of calling on the government and public to look for better methods in garbage disposal, he finally won approval to begin his green house project in three trial locations this March.

Shougang turns heavy industry base green

By Zhang Dongya

Environmental elements are becoming important considerations for China's architects.

Last year, the state-owned steel giant Shougang Group decided to end its production and transform the former factory into a "green steel city" of the future.

The project is being hailed as a new model for "green transformation" in the country.



Shougang Group hopes to turn its old steel factory green.

Earlier last year, Shougang Group halted production at its Shijingshan factory.

The death of the factory was part of the company's 4.6-billion-yuan effort to reinvent the area as a modern "green steel city." No less than 30 percent of that investment would go toward protecting and improving the factory's environment.

To shape its green vision, Shougang enlisted the help of ZNA, a Boston-based architecture and urban design firm that collected development ideas for the Ertong factory through the 2011 Architects in Mission (AIM) contest.

The contest brought together experts in architecture, landscaping and urban design and distributed five awards for Best Planning, Best Architecture Design, Best Exterior Space Design and Best Sustainable Design to projects from the Netherlands, Norway and China.

The winner of Best Sustainable Design was "Vertical Park," the design by Li Zhonghui, a student from China Academy of Art that took used the shape of a smokestack as a symbol for "green transformation."

"It's a genius solution and symbolic of transforming the city's pollution," said judge Thomas Schroepfer.

The Best Planning Award went to a trio from Tsinghua University, which was made up of three students from different countries: Martijin de Geus from the Netherlands, Tan Guang Ruey from Malaysia and Lian Xiaogang from China. Tan said their different backgrounds helped them open their minds.

The Best Exterior Space Design Award winner was Jin Longqiang from the Oslo School of Architecture and Design in Norway. He sees future construction as moving away from high-rises and prefers to work with more interactive and dynamic buildings.

Wang Xu, director of the AIM committee, said the old factory gave participants a harder challenge.

"The factory covers a huge area. If mishandled, the project will fail," he said.

"Since it is located at the west end of Chang'an Avenue near Third Ring Road, special consideration is necessary in con-



Vertical greening is popular in urban design.

CFP Photo

necting it to the surrounding environment," he said.

Ertong, located in Fengtai District, is an 83-hectare plot with some 300,000 square meters of building space. It has been dormant since 1997, but still has its old machinery and locomotives, which will be preserved during the transformation.

The old factory began its transformation into an animation and game industry center last June.

"[That role] will certainly inspire the future transformation of the factory. Some good ideas are sure to be put into consideration," said Chen Shijie, assistant general manager of Shougang Group.

Despite China's rapid building efforts, "green architecture" has remained elusive. It is often rejected early in the process as too expensive.

"However, some foreign architecture companies are changing the face of the local industry, and there are more and more examples that show green architecture can be environmentally friendly and sustainable," Li Zhonghui said.

"Another part of 'green design' is more effective use of city space. This can dramatically improve the quality of urban life," he said.

"I'm excited to see how the interest in green architecture will change the way we live."



Many Chinese are considering environmental elements when purchasing a home.

Photos by Mockingbird

What would you do on the eve

By Beijing Today Staff

December 21, 2012 is the end of the world's current cycle and everything is about to reset, according to the Mayan calendar.

What would you do today if the world came to an end tomorrow? *Beijing Today* collected replies from people around Beijing. The answers are diverse and reflect an assortment of views and lifestyles.

Our questions also include, which book, movie or song you would bring to the afterlife if the world ends tomorrow?



Smile!

I would spend the day with my family for a great meal and review our happy times together and then face the disaster. Meanwhile, I'd prepare a lot of materials to deal with the situation, especially drinking water and food. There is always hope, and I would not want to die from starving after we survive the disaster.

For music, I prefer songs by Jacky Zhang, a singer from Hong Kong, as his songs are so comforting no matter whether it's the last day of the world or the days after.

— Qi Dafu, member of Beijing Farmer's Market.



Make love!

On the world's eve, I'd want to make love with a woman that I've had a crush on. Other than that, I will read poems written by Haizi, listen to "Gloomy Sunday" and watch the movie *Ghost*.

— Huang Xiaoshan, former lawyer and now activist for better garbage disposal



Sunrise Hill

Stay with my beloved

I will spend the last day with my love. I want to bring a book by John Updike, *Byrnes*, which encourages me to face times I was upset in the past. The music I want to bring is because they pacify me. I want to bring is *Roma* by Audrey Hepburn.

— Xiao

Stay with my family

If the world is doomsday, I want to spend more time with my family and friends. I would like a good book on collecting wild birds, just in case I might survive with whatever music or books my friends prefer.

— Chen
Be



Leave a record of human development

I think I would have to sort out my achievements in the past two decades as a professor of philosophy. Philosophy is not a theoretical discussion and debate. I focus on the study and research of national policies on science and technological development.

I might write a letter explaining the development process of humanity throughout history and then send the letter out to space for anyone, or anything, to take reference for their use.

What book? Song? Film? No, I've read too many over the years and I want to have a rest. The end is a great opportunity!

— Wang Jun, professor of philosophy, Peking University

ve of the end of the world?



BANDARI

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Beijing Farmer's Market.

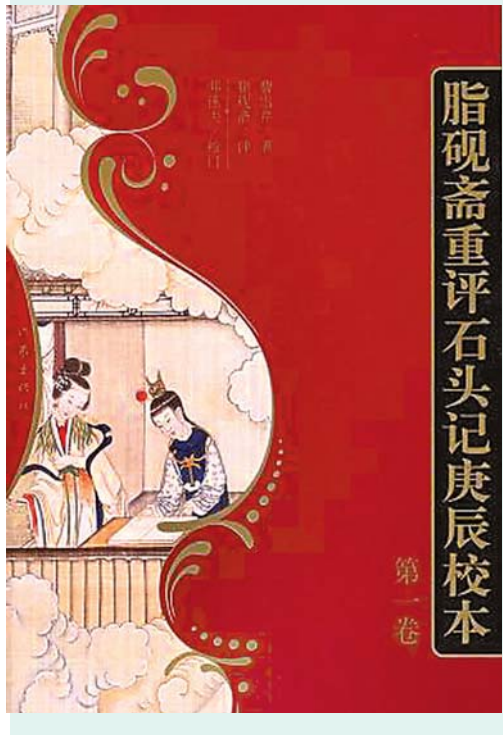


Do as usual

I will do as usual. If it is a weekday, I'll just go to work. Otherwise, I will practice calligraphy, play violin and chat with friends over tea. I guess there is not enough time to go shopping or to visit gardens. But if the theater is still open, I'll go watch Peking Opera.

About books, I can't decide whether I should take Zhi Yan Zhai's Re-evaluation on *The Story of the Stone*, *Vajracchedika-sutra* or the Bible. I don't have much interest in films, but if there has to be one, I would bring a documentary with me, such as the BBC's *Wonders of the Universe*. It is probably because I don't want to leave the earthly world, although it would be the end. Music will be Bach cello suites by American violinist Nathan Milstein or Bach violin works by Jascha Heifetz. I think I could listen to them until I die.

— Sherry Wu, HR



With my family

If the world crashes, I would like to spend my last day with my family, like any other weekend. I would also phone all my friends and my boyfriend, telling them that I really love them.

I'd take an encyclopedia because I've never read one before. I'd pick music from The Killers, such as the song "Human". I'm especially interested in George Lucas' *Star Wars*. I'm amazed by Lucas' wild imagination.

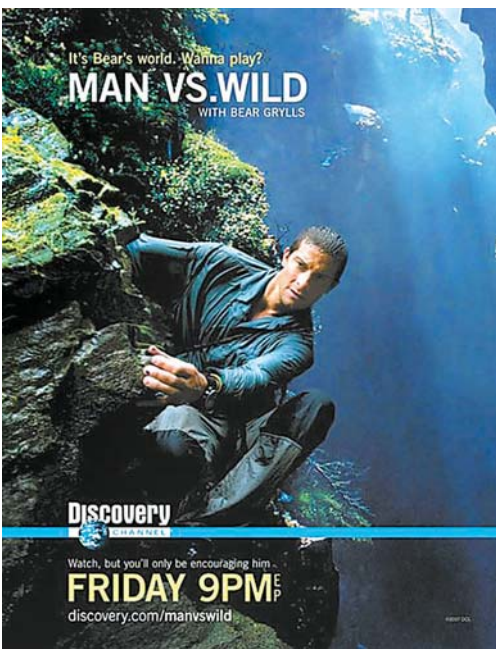
— Fan Wei, fashion assistant,
Numero China

Together with friends

For the last day on earth, I would spend the morning with my closest friends in our favorite cafe, just talking. I would then update my blog, posting a mini memoir depicting my short but wonderful life. Then I'd like to go back home to be with my parents and cat.

I'd carry Qiu Wei's *Nü Shao Nian*, a book narrating a girl's life and her family story, because I'm currently reading it. I'd bring *Shinya Shokudo*, a TV series about a cafeteria in Japan, to Noah's Ark. The song I'd listen to is one by Taiwan singer Zhang Xuan, "Baby", which I think is warm and soothing.

— Yang Xiaotong, claim assistant,
Zurich Insurance Company



Cook at home

I would like to cook at home on the last day and have my last dinner with my family. I would help my parents prepare their favorite food and we'll have some drinks to celebrate the get-together. If the street outside is peaceful, I'd want to walk on the streets for a while. In the last hours, I will hug my family one by one. I think I will cry, but will also joke that we will go to the next life when we wake up again.

I will take a guidebook like *Man in the Wild*, the film *Castaway*, starring Tom Hanks, or the TV series *Man vs. Wild*. I'd want to take a CD with all my favorite songs (I'm so insatiable!). If only one, I will bring Victor Wong's best collection or Beyond's.

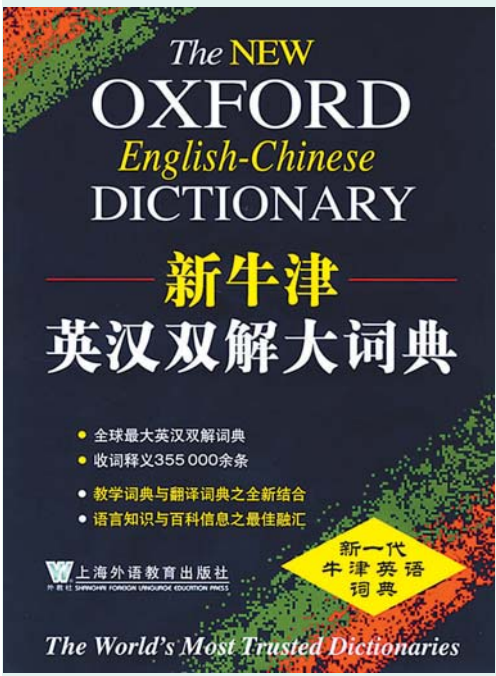
— Zred Zhang, 31, photographer

Attend a grand party

I am afraid of dying in a silence and solitude, so I would hope to attend a grand party at doomsday.

The book I want to bring is the Oxford English-Chinese Dictionary. I'm afraid that I would not be able to communicate with God. The music I'd want to bring is Christmas songs. And the movie I want to bring is Pedro Almodovar's films. I love modern dance and Almodovar uses Pina Bausch's work in his films. It is not just watching a film, but also enjoying the theater.

— Xu Qian, German translator



Think about my daughter

I'd call my parents, wife and daughter, say goodbye to all of them. I have been living alone in Beijing and separated from them for many years.

In addition, I should have a big meal before dying ("disappearing" is more accurate!). It'll be better with the best wine I can find and afford.

Oh! How should I handle my daughter? She's a freshman in university and my only worry! Life is too short for the kid.

— Yang Jinwen, EDF Beijing Office

Finish the work at hand

I prefer to rush and finish the work at hand, then send the finished work to the right people to show that I'm a person who keeps my word.

I'll spare two hours to prepare a dinner and enjoy it with my family, including my wife, my son and my dog. I'll spare another hour to reach my parents to thank them for bringing me to this disappearing world.

In the evening, I'd like to have a bath and sleep early. I'd disappear with the world together in the dream.

— Michael Abrams, American student,
University of International Business
and Economics

Be happy!

I will be ready with supplies of bread, meat and drinks, just in case. Then I'd plan a carnival with my friends and family. We will be happy.

As for movies, music and books: I've been making my way back to some classic films lately, and *Fight Club* (1999) is on my list. The film always pulls you in, challenges your prejudices, rocks your world and leaves you laughing. *Abbey Road* is the Beatles' last love letter to the world. I bet almost everyone, native or non-English speaker, has heard of *Pride and Prejudice*, but there is a reason for it to be one of the greatest of all the classics.

— Felix Bates, 29, IT engineer from Ireland

Not sure

I'm not sure what I would do: a part of me would be terrified and sad, while a small part would think it's pretty cool. But I think I would be doing exactly what I am right now, sharing time with my family, having good thoughts, learning something, thinking and communicating. It's kind of funny that people say you don't realize how lucky you are until you lose it.

I like the movie *Dear John* (2010). It's a story of love and commitment. Regarding music, "Huang Hun" (nightfall) is one of the classic Chinese love songs composed by Zhou Chuanxiong from Taiwan.

The Art of War is ancient Chinese war wisdom. The book itself is rather thick, but it is indeed worth the time. Through this, you'd get a complete understanding of both conflict and life.

— Robert Chen, 30, editor

(By Zhao Hongyi, Huang Daohen, Zhang Dongya, Wei Ying, He Jianwei and Niu Chen)

Eco chic in fashion design



By He Jianwei

The first concern of most customers when looking to buy clothes is usually not environmental protection. They look for price, practicality and brand name instead of means of production.

But the fashion industry has long had a significant environmental impact.

In recent years, eco-fashion has become popular at fashion shows. More designers have embraced eco-friendly fabrics in their designs and hope to promote the concept of environmental protection through their works.

Beijing Today has identified several top Chinese designers who have a history of making environmentally friendly designs.



Ma Ke uses recycled materials in her designs.

Using recycled materials

Born in 1971 in Changchun, Jilin Province, Ma Ke was the first Chinese fashion designer to show at Paris Haute Couture.

His research in recycling, sustainability and traditional design techniques challenge the fashion industry.

In the current era of globalization, Ma says designers are obliged to keep traditions and cultural diversity alive. With her artistic fashion label Wuyong, established in 2006 and debuted at Paris Fashion Week Spring Summer in 2007, Ma placed dramatic emphasis on organic, sustainable aspects of fashion.

"It's a real shame that a lot of young people know nothing about embroidery even though their mothers or grandmothers were experts," Ma said.

Ma's workshop in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province employs a team of workers skilled in traditional clothing manufacture. All stages of production are done in-house: spinning, weaving, dyeing and sewing are done using traditional equipment such as a 19th-century Chinese loom.

"Many people think these techniques are useless nowadays, but I think they are a

connection between humans and nature," she said.

Some of her designs incorporate recycled materials and found objects, including a paint-covered sheet made into a dress and an old tarpaulin turned into an oversized coat.

Ma thought she was born an ecologist. When she was a child, she loved staying surrounded by animals. Her first idol was the British zoologist Jane Goodall. After reading the story of her orangutan studies in the African jungle, she was eager to become a zoologist herself.

Now she keeps nearly a dozen dogs in her workshop. She believes living with animals gives her a profound understanding of how close human beings are with nature.



Mark Cheung is a naturalist who expresses his love of nature in his designs.

Dialogue with nature

In 1978, a 16-year-boy narrowly escaped being hit by lightning. Feeling lucky, he decided to make the most out of his life. That boy, Mark Cheung, 49, became the vice chairman of the China Association of Fashion Designers.

Cheung is the first Chinese fashion designer to break into the Western market. He began designing haute couture for Oleg Cassini, a US brand, in 1985 and has published many of his designs in US magazines.

Cheung is a naturalist who expresses his love of nature in his design. All of his works are related to the mountains and waters of China. He draws inspiration from his travels – every year he goes to many places and begins next year's designs upon his return.

In 2007's China Fashion Week show, his inspiration

was drawn mostly from a trip down the Yellow River, including stops in Qinghai, Sichuan, Gansu, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Henan and Shandong provinces, the Loess Plateau and the Ningxia Hui and Inner Mongolia autonomous regions.

"I could feel the magic of the water that has brought life and wealth to everywhere it passes through before vigorously pouring into the Bohai Sea," Cheung said.

In his design, people see the beauty of the Yellow River, but in reality, the pollution there is getting worse. Cheung's design called for protection of the so-called "mother river."

A year later, the Yangtze River was the topic of his ninth fashion show at China Fashion Week in 2009. The show was divided into three parts, representing the three parts of the Yangtze River.

Continued on page 11 ...



... continued from page 10



Simple and plain is 'eco'

Born in Shanghai in 1970 and graduated in 1992 from the Fashion Institute of Design at Donghua University, Wang Yiyang is among the first generation of Shanghai's own fashion designers.

After graduation, he worked for Chen Yifei's brand Layefe in 1997. He quickly found success, and later launched his own label, Cha Gang, in 2002 in Shanghai, which features designs that bridge fashion and tradition.

At first glance, his designs seem to copy Belgian minimalism. But on a second look, people will find they are typically Chinese, both in his choice of cloth and how he cuts it.

In the first series released under Cha Gang, Wang used blue cloth, which was popular in the 1950s and '60s. Families at the time lived frugally. "In my memory, blue, gray and green were the three most common colors in daily life," Wang said.

The name of the label is also closely related with life in the past. Cha Gang literally translates to "teacup." Enamel used to be a necessity in every family, but today they have fallen out of favor.

Although the clothing half a century ago wasn't necessarily colorful, the cotton fabric was environmental-friendly, healthy for the skin and durable.



▲ Wang Yiyang applies blue cotton fabric to his designs.

Advocating LOHAS concept

This new acronym describes what began with the organic craze: young Chinese seeking "lifestyles of health and sustainability." Local designers took their preferences into account with environmentally friendly materials like organic cottons and natural dyes.

Besides using environmentally friendly materials, they also advocated environmental protection at their shows. For the Cabbeen Men's Wear Collection, the designer had his models ride bicycles on stage at China Fashion Show Autumn and Winter in 2009.

"If everyone passed on driving a car one day each month, the environment would be much better," Cabbeen Yang said. "Because of fashion's impact, we have the responsibility to spread the concept of protecting our environment."

"Cabbeen" was Yang Ziming's nickname. In 1989, he used the name to start his own male fashion brand, which made it to the stage of New Fashion Week in 2008.



► Cabbeen advocates the LOHAS concept at a fashion show.

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Chasing a green dream

Husband and wife dump careers to care for Earth



Grace Tong and Mantow Chow

A model for eco community

Grace Tong and Mantow Chow have lived on the mainland for 10 years.

In that short time they have seen China's environment degenerate rapidly. Now they believe it is time to make common people realize how important the environment is and stimulate them to take action for the sake of the next generation.

To inspire people to be more ecologically minded, the couple founded the documentary group called Saving Nature with Harmony several years ago.

Their latest project is a documentary filmed in Findhorn, a small village in Scotland and a role model for sustainable human settlements.

As one of the first Chinese groups to visit the place, Tong and Chow hope their experience can inspire more urban planners and residents to learn about the community's organic food chain, ecological constructions and energy systems, as well as the local residents' sustainable lifestyle.

Two 'fools'

In Taiwan, Tong and Chow are known as "fools" because they gave up fame, status and salary to undertake a public project that has cleaned out their savings.

The 50-year-old Tong was a well-known TV host in Taiwan during the 1980s, a time when Taiwan had only three TV stations. She was also the first to create a news interview program in Taiwan.

At the height of her career, Tong became disillusioned with the direction of the island's profit-oriented media, where programs are selected for their profitability rather than their impact. When increased ratings became the basis for decision making, the



Grace Tong interviews people at Lugu Lake about their efforts to save nature.

Photos provided by Mantow Chow

media became obsessed with sex, violence and scandals.

"It's hard to find anything pure in [Taiwan's media]," Tong said.

When she came to view media work as a waste of her life, Tong looked to something more meaningful: the environment.

Her years of reporting had given her a unique perspective on ecological deterioration – a problem shared by both Taiwan and the mainland. She resolved to do something to save the environment and promote awareness of its plight.

The plan won big support from her husband Chow, even though he knew from experience that it would land them in the poor house.

Popularly known as "Uncle Mantow" (Uncle Bun), Chow was a big name in Taiwanese baseball during the 1990s. Despite being born into a rich family and having flirted with business, Chow became obsessed with the idea of starting a youth baseball team on the mainland.

Chasing that dream cost him his fortune. He paid to introduce an experienced Taiwanese baseball coach to train the mainland baseball team, which was a very weak performer in the 1990s. He also paid to take the team to Australia to compete in the

Baseball Asia Cup in 1993. Although they lost all the games, the players found confidence when they saw their skill level wasn't that far behind their competitors. He also paid to send the national team to the US for a three-month baseball camp and set up youth baseball teams in Shanghai and in Beijing.

When the dream finally seemed to be making progress, Chow had to abandon everything because he had run out of money.

This time, Chow has decided to help his wife fulfill her dream. They moved to the mainland in 2002 with their two sons and started a new life devoted to ecological protection.

Saving nature through documentary

One or two people working alone is hardly enough to create an eco-protection platform in a country as large as China. In order to spread their message, Tong and Chow decided to make a documentary.

After four years of preparation, the couple founded Saving Nature with Harmony in 2006 and began scouring the nation for good topics.

Unlike most environmental documentaries, which focus on the dangers a degraded

environment can pose, "ours focuses on the little people who make an effort to save nature on their own," Tong said.

"We hope their stories can tell Chinese people that they can really do something to make the environment better," Tong said. "Saving nature is not as difficult as you might imagine."

"We don't have enough money and time to make big works like Discovery, but we can create short vignettes using real examples from real people."

Over the years, the couple has covered a wide range of stories, from a lone peasant who set out to save endangered swans at Swan Lake Nature Reserve in Rongcheng, Shandong, to a Taiwanese woman in suburban Beijing who runs an organic farm.

The peasant's story was particularly moving.

Yuan Xueshun, an ordinary farmer who lives near Rongcheng Swan Lake, has seen the lake become heavily polluted in recent years. The lake is not only the biggest winter habitat of swans in northern China, but also one of the four biggest swan lakes in the world.

For the last 20 years, Yuan visited the lake each winter to inspect and save swans. His act has won him unexpected fame and made him a well-known

figure. The Ford Foundation awarded him the First Prize for Environment Protection.

As a result, Yuan's life is no longer peaceful: fellow villagers expect him to make up for the wheat seedlings eaten by the swans; the town government assumes an ambiguous attitude toward his protectionism; and the swan lake is being turned into a farm. Against this backdrop of curious and suspicious observers, Yuan, with a Chinese farmer's persistence, continues his struggle to save the swans.

Tong said she was really moved by Yuan's daily struggles and his persistence in the face of limitations.

"We have the same mission as Yuan: to give all our effort to save nature," Tong said.

In place of commercial funding, many of the couple's documentaries have been funded by donations.

"We may not be as rich, and we may have to budget carefully and save our money, but this job brings us an inner peace we never had before," Tong said.

She said she hopes that if everyone who sees her documentaries does something small to improve the environment, then future generations in China can inherit a better world.

NGOs appeal for animal rights

By Han Manman

It's no secret that China's treatment of endangered species such as tigers, certain sharks, rhinos and elephants hasn't been great. Legislation to protect animal rights has never been passed despite graphic media reports of abuse: bears confined in small cages and tapped for bile, cats boiled alive, sharks killed for just their fins.

But animal lovers have stepped up their efforts to raise awareness of animal rights. Below are some examples from this past year.



Animal lovers have stepped up their efforts to raise awareness of animal rights.

CFP Photo

PETA and ACT Asia launch anti-fur appeal

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) recently brought its controversial methods of raising animal rights awareness to the Chinese mainland.

"I used to be a proponent of fur because I didn't know about the abuse and cruelty behind it," said Taiwanese actress Annie Yi, who recently participated in a graphic anti-fur video for PETA Asia.

As images of skinned animals – some still panting and blinking – and scenes of rabbits picked up by the ears and shot in the head with stun guns on Chinese fur farms appear on screen, Yi intones: "Some people think the fur ... from fur farms is humane. But we can't see how they treat the animals. Animals on fur farms spend their entire lives confined to cramped, filthy wire cages ... [then] they are anally electrocuted."

PETA public relations officer Joan Chan said PETA and its affiliates have conducted several undercover investigations of fur farms in China and around the world.

One investigation revealed that rabbits kicked and screamed as they were shot with electric stun guns. Video footage from another investigation showed that workers slammed foxes and raccoons to the ground before skinning them, sometimes while they were still alive.

Chan said when investigators went into another animal market in southern China, they were horrified to find dogs and cats being bludgeoned, hanged, bled to death and strangled with wire nooses.

PETA is not the only organization to promote anti-fur in China. A No Fur China campaign was launched last month by ACTAsia for Animals, a UK-based charity set up by experienced animal rights advocates.

ACT Asia claims more than 50 million rabbits, raccoons, minks and foxes are kept in dreadful conditions on Chi-



Shoppers look on as two animal rights activists in green body paint protest outside a luxury brand store in Taipei.

IC Photo

nese fur farms.

According to a report released by ACT Asia, China has become a major producer and consumer of fur, which is most often bought by the younger generation. Items include coats, hats, cushions, bedcovers and other accessories made from pelts. The majority of buyers are unaware of the cruelty involved in raising and killing animals for their fur.

"This shows that our public awareness campaign is desperately needed to stop the huge and growing fur industry in China," the report said.

Chan said there are no penalties for abusing animals on fur farms in China, which is the world's largest fur exporter, supplying more than half of the finished fur garments in the US.

"Just a little fur can cause great suffering to animals," Yi said.

"We need to care about other life on earth. They have the right to live," she said.

Wild China attempts to reduce shark fin consumption

Most of China's top restaurants have shark fin soup on their menus despite repeated calls from animal rights organizations to save the species from extinction.

Shark fin soup, celebrated in China, is usually served at important banquets such as wedding receptions. As Chinese people have grown richer, the soup, once a symbol of nobility and luxury, has become common in restaurants.

Environmental protection organizations around the world say the market for shark fin has caused the decline of the species, which, as it is at the top of the ocean food chain, is critical to ecosystem stability.

According to WildAid, a US-based wild animal protection organization, as many as 73 million sharks are killed every year. As a result, about one-third of the open-ocean shark species are threatened with extinction, with certain

species experiencing a 99 percent population decline.

Steve Trent, president of WildAid, said sharks are often still alive when their fins are hacked off. The sharks, whose meat is not considered as valuable as their fins, are thrown back into water to drown or bleed to death.

To educate more people in China on the importance of marine life, WildAid launched an annual month-long national initiative in recent years co-organized by the National Aquatic Wildlife Conservation.

Trent said he's a believer in China as a global leader for conservation.

"I think this is a great country with untold talents. And to apply those to save the sharks and other endangered wildlife, I believe we will create a world in which our children still have the benefits of these species," he said.

Animal Asia appeals for bears

The Chinese pharmaceutical industry was called on to stop producing, promoting and selling bear bile from farmed bears during a launching ceremony of a campaign early this month in Beijing.

The campaign, called Healing Without Harm, was launched by Animals Asia, an organization that rescues bears from bile farms in China and Vietnam. There were talks from a range of experts who presented research showing that bear bile extracted from farmed bears should be considered unsafe, and that bear farming is cruel.

Toby Zhang, director of external affairs in the China branch of Animals Asia, said traditional Chinese medicine emphasizes harmony with nature, and that "using bear bile produced by the bear farming industry obviously violates the harmonious spirit of TCM by not only causing unbearable suffering to endangered animals, but also threatening the health of those who consume them."

According to Animal Asia, as many as 20,000 bears across Asia are farmed for their bile, which is used in traditional Asian medicine despite the availability of more than 54 inexpensive herbal and synthetic alternatives.

In China, farmed bears can spend more than 30 years in tiny cages. They are milked regularly for their bile through crude catheters or permanent holes in their abdomens. According to official figures there are more than 7,000 bears on farms, but Animals Asia fears the actual figure could be higher than 10,000.

By Wang Xudong

Before the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the Beijing government set up 28 emergency zones and shelters around the city in case of natural disasters, mostly in parks and public spaces, and the number may expand to 300 in the next five years.

The whole city will basically be covered. *Beijing Today* visited four shelters in the city's downtown, all of which have their own characteristics. Some are labeled with signs, while others are just a park to be used as an evacuation zone in case of a citywide emergency.



Emergency gathering spots around town

Yuandadu Relics park

Brief intro: Yuandadu Relics Park, which was built according to the Wall Ruins of Dadu, the capital of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), is the longest park in Beijing at about nine kilometers, stretching across the Haidian and Chaoyang districts. Given its length, the park is the largest emergency shelter, covering an area of 46.5 square kilometers with the ability to hold more than a million people.

We chose to walk through an area of the park close to the Beitucheng subway station. All the main entrances have signs that designate the park as an emergency shelter. Locals who visit the park often know that it's an emergency shelter, but first-time visitors aren't as aware.

Local voice: "I come here every day, there are a lot of entrances in this park and we all know this is an emergency shelter, just ahead of this area you may find another sign."

Imperial Palace Wall Relics Park

Relief intro: Imperial Palace Wall Relics Park, the biggest public park in central Beijing, was built in 2001. As another long and narrow park, it was built based on eastern imperial palace walls from the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Walking west from Zhangzi Zhong Lu subway station, people may see a red wall marking the northeast part of the park. In front is a big "emergency shelter" sign. The park is free to enter.

Local voice: "I don't know if the reserved area in the park can be a shelter since it's too narrow and small, but I really appreciate that the government built the park for residents living around here, it's so convenient. We like coming here during the summer. Lots of foreigners come here as well since this park is so central."



The area reserved for tents inside Yuandadu Relics Park

CFP Photo



Imperial Palace Wall Relics Park provides free drinking water.

IC Photo

List of shelters

Ditan Park

Location: Ditan Park, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District
Capacity: 27,000

Shuncheng Park

Location: east side of Xi Erhuan Lu, near Fuxingmen Qiao, Xicheng District
Capacity: 30,000

Rose Garden

Location: northeast corner of Madian Qiao, Xicheng District
Capacity: 22,000

Green Space in Xibianmen

Location: near Xibianmen Qiao, Xicheng District
Capacity: 23,000

Jade Dragonfly Cultural Square

Location: west side of Yuting Qiao, Chongwen District
Capacity: 18,000

Green Space in Yandun

Location: west side of Yongdingmen Wai Dajie, Chongwen District
Capacity: 5,000

Green Space along South Central Axis

Location: Yongdingmen Nei Da Jie, Xuanwu and Chongwen District
Capacity: 140,000

Feng Xuan Park

Location: southwest corner of Erhuan Lu, Xuanwu District
Capacity: 50,000

Green Space in Changchunyuan

Location: southeast of Changchun Jie, Xuanwu District
Capacity: 5,000

Wanshou Park

Location: 29, Baizhifang Dong Jie, Xuanwu District
Capacity: 15,000

(Continue on Page 15 ...)



An emergency zone at Haidian Park CFP Photos

(... continued from Page 14)

Chaoyang Park

Brief intro: Located close to an entertainment district and residential neighborhoods, Chaoyang Park has become one of the most popular parks in town.

It's a natural location for one of Beijing's largest emergency shelters: in the north part of the park is an area of 1.2 million square kilometers that can provide shelter for 153,000 people during an emergency.

Near the north entrance of the park, several signs designate this area as an emergency shelter. Although the capacity is marked as 153,000, it seems like the park can hold more.

Local voice: "I didn't know it's an emergency shelter. Actually, I don't go a lot because there is an entry fee (5 yuan). But if there is a natural disaster like an earthquake, I think they'd make the park free."



The emergency zone near Nanluogu Xiang

List of shelters

Green Space in Cuifang Yuan

Location: southeast corner of Xibianmen Qiao, Xuanwu District

Capacity: 4,000

Green Space in Fayuan Temple

Location: Nanhen Xi Jie, Xuanwu District

Capacity: 3,000

Taiyanggong Park

Location: northeast of Wangjing Qiao, Chaoyang District

Capacity: 180,000

Green Space in Jiangtai

Location: along the Ba River in Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang District

Capacity: 80,000

Yongxi Park

Location: Anzhen Qiao, Bei Sanhuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Capacity: 7,000

Madian Park

Location: northeast corner of Madian Qiao, Chaoyang District

Capacity: 14,000

Haidian Park

Location: northwest of Wanquanhe Qiao, Bei Sihuan Lu, Haidian District

Capacity: 100,000

Dongbeiwang Primary School

Location: 8 Zuyuan Xi Jie, Haidian District

Capacity: 4,000

Green Space in Dongzhuang

Location: east side of Youwai Dajie, Fengtai District

Capacity: 40,000

Fengyi Garden

Location: around Fengyi Qiao, southwest corner of Sanhuan Lu

Capacity: 75,000

Shijingshan Amusement Park

Location: 25 Shijingshan Lu, Shijingshan District

Capacity: 20,000

Beijing International Sculpture Park

Brief intro: Built in 2002, Beijing International Sculpture Park is the largest sculpture park in Beijing, located in Shijingshan District between Yuquan Lu and Babaoshan subway stations. It's also one of the biggest emergency shelters in western Beijing; the park can hold about 100,000 people.

Local voice: "I heard that there is an emergency shelter in the park, but the problem is that it's not free. Anyway, it is a nice place to walk with my granddaughter."

Beijing Sculpture Park features some very interesting sculpture pieces.

Photo by Wang Xudong



Be ready when disaster strikes

By Zhao Hongyi

Accident and injury rarely comes with a warning: being prepared with the right tools, medicines and foods is essential if you want to ensure your safety and comfort.

Many families already have a family emergency box, an item usually kept by mothers in their kitchen closets, wardrobes or

other easily accessible locations.

But these simple collections of first aid tools are unlikely to be helpful when faced with a real disaster.

Each family should also prepare a disaster box that includes the kinds of materials they will need to survive after an earthquake, fire, typhoon or tsunami.

Emergency box checklist:

1. Bandages, adhesive plaster and tourniquets
2. A thermometer, scissors and cotton swabs
3. Common medicines like aspirin
4. Eye drops, burn cream, antibiotic ointment and clotting powder
5. Pills for fever and diarrhea, heart medication, painkillers, antibiotics and emetics
6. Disinfectants

Disaster box checklist:

1. Outdoor camping equipment
2. Blankets and clothes
3. Multifunction utility knife
4. Fire extinguisher
5. 50 meters of fireproof escape rope rated for 200 kilograms
6. Masks to protect against smoke and poisonous gases
7. A hammers, whistle, radio, flashlight and batteries
8. Fluorescent vests
9. Food:
 - a. Solid foods, such as cookies, bread and instant noodles, b. Bottled water, c. Canned foods, d. Soda crackers and chocolate
10. Personal information:
 - a. Name and age, b. Blood type, c. Medical history, d. Relatives and their phone numbers



Where to buy a box:

Here are some producers and retailers of family emergency and disaster boxes. Their products are also available online:

United Wah Lee Corp

Add: 16F, 46 Guorun Tower, Xisanhuan Nan Lu, Beijing

Tel: 5112 9108, 5286 3537, 13701136238

Website: zhongsou.net

Email: lhlchina@163.com

Mdsin Medicare

Add: Westing Tower, 1 Meisheng Lu, Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone, Shanghai

Tel: 400-680 8822, 021-6194 8816

Website: mdsin.com

Email: sh@mdsin.com

Kingsun Medical & Emergency Products

Add: Dahua Hotel, Fu'an Compound, Xinhua, Jiangsu Province

Tel: 0523-8529 1882

Mobile: 15952659855

Website: kingsunmed.com

Email: nickrong@gmail.com

Hangzhou Cror Biotechnology

Add: 3F, Building 1, 75 Chutian Lu, Binjiang District, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province

Tel: 400-8120 527, 0571-8882 7880, 8882 8773

Hotlines: 0571-880 5803, 18905817828

Website: cror120.cn.alibaba.com

Email: cror120@126.com

Tips for emergency rescue:

1. Gas poisoning: Indicated by dizziness, headache, queasiness, labored breathing and a flushed complexion

Method: Open the windows to let fresh air in. Keep the victim warm and provide him or her with sugar tea and oxygen. Victims of heavy gas poisoning may require two hours of rescue breathing. Clear their throat to ensure breath flows smoothly. Perform CPR or call "120" for emergency assistance.

2. Food poisoning: Indicated by queasiness, bellyache, diarrhea, dehydration, electrolyte imbalance and, in serious cases, shock.

Method: This condition usually requires fluids, hydrating salts or sugar water, orfloxacin pills or hospitalization.

3. Alcohol poisoning: Indicated by excitability, loquaciousness, rudeness, mood swings, loss of balance, vomit, a pale complexion, low temperature or high heart rate

Method: Treat with strong tea and fruits. Keep the patient warm if they have consumed a moderate amount of alcohol. Left untreated, there is a risk of death due to respiratory failure after heavy drinking.

4. Sunstroke: Indicated by heavy perspiration, high temperature, paralysis, convulsions and labored breathing

Method: Place the victim in the shade, remove their clothes and apply traditional medicines like *shidieshu* (ten drops water) or *rendan*. In serious conditions, the victim may need to be partially submerged in a basin of warm water. Listen to their breathing and call for emergency help if necessary.

5. Hiccups: Usually follows rapid eating

Method: Ask the victim to hold his or her breath, drink some water and swallow while hiccuping. If the victim is an infant, caress the lips or ears. In elderly people, hiccups can be a sign of serious illness.

6. Nasal bleeding: Usually occurs following injury or in a dry climate. It can be a sign of

rhinitis, high blood pressure, a decrease in blood platelets or fever.

Method: Press the side of the nose that is bleeding flat and hold it for 5 to 10 minutes so the bleeding stops. If both sides are bleeding, pinch them closed and breathe through the mouth. After releasing, try to breathe gently through the nose for 10 minutes. For bleeding on only one side, try raiding the opposite arm. Have the victim sit in a chair and put his or her feet in a bowl of warm water. If bleeding persists, seek medical help.

7. Wounds on the hands: Minor cuts can worsen with infection and provide a gateway for disease to enter the body. Treat all injuries seriously.

Method: Use a cotton swab dipped in alcohol or iodine to clean the wound. Wrap the wound with a bandages or sterile gauze, then apply an antibiotic ointment or take oral antibiotic medicine. If the wound is deep and retains dirt and other matter, see a doctor to receive a tetanus injection.

